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MEMORANDUM FOR CORRESPONDENTS

No. 179-M
July 22, 1994

President William Clinton announced today his decision to immediately and massively increase the U.S. government's response to the ongoing disaster in Rwanda.

As part of that plan, the Department of Defense has been tasked to greatly expand air support flying critically needed supplies and personnel into the stricken region and to build a robust distribution system on the ground to get the aid to the suffering refugees.

Deputy Secretary of Defense, John Deutch, announced the following actions to comply with the President's direction

DIRECTED ACTIONS

- Assigned General George A. Joulwan, commander, U.S. European Command to organize the relief effort and to establish a Joint Task Force to be led by U.S. Army Brigadier General Jack P. Nix.
- The establishment of an airhead at Entebbe to serve as the hub of all regional airlift activities.
- The establishment of a European airhead at Rhein-Main AB Germany to receive equipment and supplies destined for the relief effort.
- Deployment of a Tanker Airlift Control Element (TALCE) to Entebbe to increase delivery capability.
- Establishment of two forward operating locations at Goma and Bukavu airfields to aid in the delivering of supplies from Entebbe.
- Deployment of a Combat Control Team to augment French CCT members providing air traffic control at Goma and Bukavu airfields.
- Deployment of a TALCE to Goma and Bukavu airfields for logistics handling and security.
- Deployment of an engineering construction team to Goma and Bukavu to increase airfield capability.
- Establishment of a logistics command and control network to integrate all organizations involved in the relief effort.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY:
HARRY R. MELONE

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- Establishment of a water purification and distribution system.

PERSONNEL DEPLOYMENTS

Until the USEUCOM Assessment team provides final recommendations, it will be difficult to provide exact numbers of people that will be deployed. The following are estimates based on early planning for the operation. Deploying units have not yet been identified.

ENTEBBE - Initially, the Entebbe TALCE will be staffed with several hundred people. It will be customized to situational needs and when fully operational could grow to 2,400 people. The Entebbe TALCE will perform the following functions. Provide command and control, air traffic control support, ground refueling capability, temporary storage and maintenance structures, airfield security, and heavy material handling equipment and personnel.

GOMA & BUKAVU - The initial TALCE deployment will be about 100 people, growing to as much as 1,400 when both locations are fully operational. The deployed TALCE will provide logistics handling, security, air traffic control and engineering capabilities. The engineering team will expand the taxiways, install lighting for night operations and build maintenance, billeting and support structures.

The attached news release from USEUCOM summarizes recent relief activities.

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